

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A structure for securing a cup support element in a seat cushion of vehicle seat, in which said cup support element includes a body portion and a slide support member slidably supported in said body portion, said slide support member being designed to supportively receive drinking cups and glasses, comprising:

a wire frame ~~provided~~ embedded in foam padding of said seat cushion; and

a substantially rigid protection plate having a plurality of securing pieces projecting horizontally and outwardly therefrom;

wherein said plurality of securing pieces are securely connected with said wire frame, wherein each of said plurality of securing pieces have ~~an elastic property relative to~~ a width less than that of said protection plate so that ~~said plurality of securing pieces, thereby being resiliently bendable~~ will bend with respect to the protection plate given ~~a great force against said protection plate~~; and

wherein said protection plate is fixedly attached to said body portion of said cup support element so as to embracingly cover said body portion, while being supportively connected with said wire framework via said plurality of securing pieces.

10. (Previously Presented) The structure as claimed in claim 9, wherein said protection plate is formed from a metallic material which has an elastic property which allows the protection plate to be resiliently deformable by a great load being applied thereto.

11. (Previously Presented) The structure as claimed in claim 9, wherein said protection plate has a pair of lateral walls, and wherein said plurality of securing pieces are integrally provided with each of said pair of lateral walls to project horizontally and outwardly therefrom.

12. (Previously Presented) The structure as claimed in claim 9, wherein said seat cushion has an upper side for a passenger to sit, wherein said body portion of said cup support element has an upper wall and a pair of lateral walls, wherein said protection plate is so formed to have a main horizontal portion and a pair of lateral portions extending vertically from said main horizontal portion,

wherein said plurality of securing pieces are integral with each of said pair of lateral portions of said protection plates so as to project outwardly and horizontally therefrom in parallel with said main horizontal portion of the protection plate, wherein said protection plate is securely attached to said body portion of said cup support element, such that the main portion thereof covers the upper wall of said cup support element body portion, while the pair of laterals portions thereof respectively cover said pair of lateral walls of said cup support element body portion.

13. (Previously Presented) The structure as claimed in claim 9, wherein said seat cushion has a foam padding provided therein, wherein said wire frame is embedded integrally in said foam padding, wherein the structure further comprises a space defined in a predetermined region of said foam padding, and wherein, in said space, said plurality of securing pieces of said protection plate are securely connected with a portion of said wire frame.

14. (Currently Amended) A structure for securing a cup support element in a seat cushion of vehicle seat, in which said seat cushion has a foam padding provided therein and said cup support element includes a body portion and a slide support member slidably supported in said body portion,

said slide support member being designed to supportively receive drinking cups and glasses, said structure comprising:

    a space defined in a predetermined region of said foam padding;

    a wire frame embedded integrally in said foam padding, said wire frame comprising:

        a wire frame assembly having a configuration that substantially constitutes a contour of said seat cushion; and

        a wire sub-assembly formed in said wire frame assembly and disposed in said foam padding at a point adjacent to said space; and

        a substantially rigid protection plate including a plurality of securing pieces projected horizontally and outwardly therefrom;

    wherein said plurality of securing pieces are securely connected with said wire sub-assembly in said space, and each have an elastic property relative to a width less than that of said protection plate, thereby being resiliently bendable so that said plurality of securing pieces will bend with respect to the protection plate given a great force against said protection plate; and

    wherein said protection plate is fixedly attached to said body portion of said cup support element so as to embracingly cover said particular body portion, while being

supportively connected with said wire frame via said plurality of securing pieces.

15. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 14, wherein said seat cushion has an upper side on which a passenger is to sit; a lateral side vertically extending from said upper side; and a bottom side opposite to said upper side; wherein said foam padding has an upper wall corresponding to said upper side of said seat cushion; a lateral wall corresponding to said lateral side of said seat cushion; and a bottom wall corresponding to said bottom side of said seat cushion, and wherein said space is formed by cutting away part of said lateral and bottom walls of said foam padding.

16. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 14, wherein said wire sub-assembly includes at least two wire members connected with said wire frame assembly. and wherein said plurality of securing pieces of said protection plate are securely connected with said at least two wire members.

17. (New) A structure for securing a cup support element in a seat cushion of vehicle seat, in which said cup support element includes a body portion and a slide support

member slidably supported in said body portion, said slide support member being designed to supportively receive drinking cups and glasses, comprising:

    a wire frame embedded in foam padding of said seat cushion; and

    a substantially rigid protection plate having a pair of lateral walls projecting down from said projection plate and a plurality of securing pieces projecting horizontally and outwardly from a free edge of each of said pair of lateral walls;

    wherein said plurality of securing pieces are securely connected with said wire frame, wherein each of said plurality of securing pieces have an elastic property relative to said protection plate, thereby being resiliently bendable with respect to the protection plate; and

    wherein a bottom surface of said protection plate abuts and is fixed to a top surface of said body portion of said cup support element so as to embracingly cover said body portion, while being supportively connected with said wire framework via said plurality of securing pieces.

18. (New) The structure as claimed in claim 17, wherein said protection plate is formed from a metallic material which has an elastic property which allows the

protection plate to be resiliently deformable by a great load being applied thereto.

19. (New) The structure as claimed in claim 17, wherein said plurality of securing pieces are integral with each of said pair of lateral walls.

20. (New) The structure as claimed in claim 17, wherein said seat cushion has an upper side for a passenger to sit, wherein said body portion of said cup support element has an upper wall and a pair of lateral walls, wherein said protection plate is so formed to have a main horizontal portion and a pair of lateral portions extending vertically from said main horizontal portion, wherein said plurality of securing pieces are integral with each of said pair of lateral portions of said protection plates so as to project outwardly and horizontally therefrom in parallel with said main horizontal portion of the protection plate, wherein said protection plate is securely attached to said body portion of said cup support element, such that the main portion thereof covers the upper wall of said cup support element body portion, while the pair of laterals portions thereof respectively cover said pair of lateral walls of said cup support element body portion.

21. (New) The structure as claimed in claim 17, wherein said seat cushion has a foam padding provided therein, wherein said wire frame is embedded integrally in said foam padding, wherein the structure further comprises a space defined in a predetermined region of said foam padding, and wherein, in said space, said plurality of securing pieces of said protection plate are securely connected with a portion of said wire frame.

22. (New) A structure for securing a cup support element in a seat cushion of vehicle seat, in which said seat cushion has a foam padding provided therein and said cup support element includes a body portion and a slide support member slidably supported in said body portion, said slide support member being designed to supportively receive drinking cups and glasses, said structure comprising:

a space defined in a predetermined region of said foam padding;

a wire frame embedded integrally in said foam padding, said wire frame comprising:

a wire frame assembly having a configuration that substantially constitutes a contour of said seat cushion; and

a wire sub-assembly formed in said wire frame assembly and disposed in said foam padding at a point adjacent to said space; and

a substantially rigid protection plate including a pair of lateral walls projecting down from said protective plate and a plurality of securing pieces projected horizontally and outwardly from a free edge of each of said pair of lateral walls;

wherein said plurality of securing pieces are securely connected with said wire sub-assembly in said space, and each have a width less than that of said protection plate so that said plurality of securing pieces will bend with respect to the protection plate given a great force against said protection plate; and

wherein a bottom surface of said protection plate abuts and is fixed to a top surface of said body portion of said cup support element so as to embracingly cover said particular body portion, while being supportively connected with said wire frame via said plurality of securing pieces.

23. (New) The structure according to claim 22, wherein said seat cushion has an upper side on which a passenger is to sit; a lateral side vertically extending from said upper side; and a bottom side opposite to said upper

side; wherein said foam padding has an upper wall corresponding to said upper side of said seat cushion; a lateral wall corresponding to said lateral side of said seat cushion; and a bottom wall corresponding to said bottom side of said seat cushion, and wherein said space is formed by cutting away part of said lateral and bottom walls of said foam padding.

24. (New) The structure according to claim 22, wherein said wire sub-assembly includes at least two wire members connected with said wire frame assembly. and wherein said plurality of securing pieces of said protection plate are securely connected with said at least two wire members.